

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 1-4 is gratefully acknowledged. The statement by the Examiner that claims 6-8, 11-15, 17-19 and 22-26 contain allowable subject matter is also gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 5-7 and 15-25 have been amended and claim 28 has been added. Claims 8 and 26 have been canceled. The application now contains pending claims 1-7, 9-25 and 27-28, of which claims 1-4 have been allowed. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this application and in other applications.

Claims 5, 9, 10, 16, 20, 21 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Rhodes (U.S. Patent no. 6,140,630). Claims 6-8, 11-15, 17-19 and 22-26 stand objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims, but are otherwise allowable. The rejection and objection are respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 has been amended such that objected to claim 8 is rewritten in independent format as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 5 is allowable. Claims 9, 10 and 11 depend from claim 5 and are allowable along with claim 5.

Claim 16 has been amended such that objected to claim 26 is rewritten in independent format as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 16 is allowable. Claims 20-22 and 27 depend from claim 16 and are allowable along with claim 16.

Claims 6, 7, 15, 17, 18 and 19 have been rewritten in independent format including the limitations of their respective base claims as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, claims 6, 7, 15 and 17-19 are allowable. Claims 12-14 depend from allowable claim 6 and are allowable along with claim 6. Claims 23-25 depend from

allowable claim 17 and are allowable along with claim 17. Claims 8 and 26 have been canceled since their limitation were placed in claims 5 and 16, respectively.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection and objection should be withdrawn and claims 5-7, 9-25 and 27 allowed.

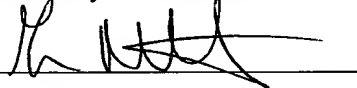
Claims 20-25 have been amended to correct typographical errors and not for reasons of patentability.

New claim 28 has been added and is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth in the Office Action.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: October 28, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Thomas J. D'Amico

Registration No.: 28,371

Gianni Minutoli

Registration No.: 41,198

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &

OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorneys for Applicants